

REMARKSPending Claims

Applicants have amended claims 21, 26 and 33. Claims 21-46 remain pending.

35 USC § 102

Claims 21-28, 30-35 and 37-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ninomiya, U.S. Patent No. 5,764,968. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested in view of the amendments made to claims 21, 26 and 33 and for the following reasons.

A computer system is claimed in which a part of the main memory is able to be hot-plugged, hot-inserted or hot-added to the system. In particular, the computer system has the information of the size of the memory that will be hot-plugged to the system and the information is stored as memory size information in a non-volatile memory. The non-volatile memory includes current system configuration information 122, which includes the expandable memory information 124, as shown in Fig. 4. As shown in Fig. 5 and described in the specification (page 17, lines 15-22), steps 310 and 320 are for initializing

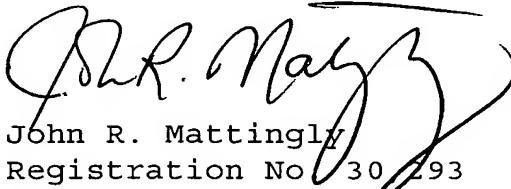
the processor and the memory before the initialization of the I/O device in step 330. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 21, 26 and 33 to set forth that the processor is capable of accessing the non-volatile memory before initialization of an I/O device.

In the Office Action, an EEPROM 43 is relied upon as the claimed non-volatile storage storing configuration information regarding a second main memory to be hot-plugged. However, the EEPROM 43 is not equivalent to the non-volatile memory for storing configuration information claimed by Applicants. The EEPROM 43 stores hot insertion information of attributes of PC cards, for example, that are to be hot inserted. As noted in the Office Action, however, the hot insertion information is read by the I/O control gate array 23 in Ninomiya through the I2C bus 4 under the control of the system BIOS of the BIOS ROM 19 when the computer main body and the card dock are docked or at power on. Accordingly, the processor of Ninomiya is not disclosed as being capable of accessing the non-volatile memory 43 before initialization of an I/O device. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the claims, as amended, should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,
reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: September 30, 2004